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California Healthcare Assn. Rural Healthcare Center Awarded Grant to Expand Telehealth/Telemedicine

The James Irvine Foundation has awarded a \$725,000, 3-Year grant for telehealth/telemedicine to assist health care providers in rural and medically underserved areas to effectively utilize information technologies to access health information and deliver health care services.

The Telehealth/Telemedicine Center will be a resource to health care providers by offering technical assistance in planning and developing telehealth and telemedicine programs. In addition, the Center also will offer outreach and educational opportunities for rural community members and health care providers to help them understand the potential benefits of telemedicine.

The Center will also seek to improve communication and collaboration among health care providers interested in telehealth/telemedicine through education seminars, information updates and an Internet website.

A pool of funds will be established and potential pilot projects will be identified to disseminate grants to help different types of health care providers develop and implement telemedicine programs.

Contact Bruce Millis, Director of the Telehealth/Telemedicine Center at (916) 552-7636.

Rural Health Newscast

Office of the Rural Health Policy Council
Health & Welfare Agency
State of California

July 21, 1997

\$\$\$ California's Rural Health Funding Clearinghouse \$\$\$

One of our service goals was to create an informative and user friendly listing of funding sources for all rural health providers in California. We are pleased to announce this Internet based service as part of the Rural Health Policy Council's Home Page which can be accessed at www.ruralhealth.ca.gov, then simply click on the \$\$\$ icon to view the list of funding opportunities. We have hyperlinked those funders located on the Internet (those underlined below), for others we have provided telephone numbers and other information on how to contact them. This service is organized as follows:

Government Funding Sources:

[California Health Facilities Financing Authority](#)
[U.S. Department of Agriculture Funding Resources](#)
[Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance](#)
[Search the Federal Register](#)
[Welcome to GrantsNet](#)

[Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance \(FDAC\)](#)
[Texas Grants Searchable Index](#)

Private Funding Sources:

[California Wellness Foundation](#)
[Foundation Center's Grantmaker Information Directory](#)
[Fresno Regional Foundation](#)
[Humboldt Area Foundation](#)
[Irvine Health Foundation](#)
[James Irvine Foundation](#)
[Kellogg Collection](#)
[Sierra Health Foundation](#)

Other Funding Sources:

[Center for Health Care Strategies Resource Center](#)
[Foundation Center OnLine](#)
[National Rural Development Partnership](#)

Specific Grants and Programs:

Title: *Distance Learning Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program for 1997* **Deadline:** **August 15, 1997** **Funder:** U.S. Dept of Agriculture **Funding Range:** Up to \$300K grants, up to \$3M loans **Contact:** (202) 720-9554.

Title: *Humboldt Area Foundation* **Focus:** Broadly defined community health, children, youth, families. **Eligibility:** Services in Humboldt, Del Norte and adjacent areas of Trinity and Siskiyou Counties **Deadline:** 11/1/97 **Contact:** phone (707) 442-2993, fax (707) 442-3811.

If you do not have access to the Internet, call us at 1-800-237-4492 and we will print a copy of the web page and mail or fax it to you.

FCC Rule Provides \$400 Million Annually for Rural "Telehealth" Access

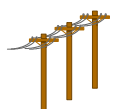
Beginning January 1, 1998, rural health departments and other rural health care providers will be eligible for discounted telecommunications rates comparable to those paid by urban customers.

"Universal service fund" discounts are authorized for this purpose up to a total of \$400 million annually. The Federal Communications Commission authorized the discounts as part of its implementation of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996.

The FCC rule approves universal service fund eligibility for public and non-profit rural health care providers, specifically including rural public health departments, to help lower the often prohibitive cost they face for access to the Internet and to the telecommunications and information services that are becoming more and more critical to community public health practice. The rule specifically authorizes discounted rates for:

1) telecommunications distance charges, 2) toll-free access to the Internet, and 3) telecommunications services of bandwidths up to and including 1.54 Mbps ("T-1").

FCC staff are drafting policies for implementation of the new rule, including procedures rural health departments can use to apply to their local telecommunications providers for the discounted rates. The full text of the FCC ruling is available on the FCC home page at <http://www.fcc.gov/healthnet/> For California specifics, please call Bruce Millis, Director, Telehealth/Telemedicine Center at (916) 552-7636.



Rural Health Newscast

Have Your Say!

The public meetings of the Rural Health Policy Council (RHPC) and the Interdepartmental Rural Health Coordinating Committee (IRHCC) are for the benefit of rural providers and their clients.

This is a unique opportunity for face-to-face dialogue with high level state officials. The format of most of the RHPC and IRHCC meetings is an informal, roundtable discussion.

The RHPC members also benefit by gaining increased awareness of the challenges facing rural communities that they may not be apprised of in the day-to-day management of their departments.

You also meet your fellow providers from other areas who may have the solution to your problem, as attendees have discovered at several of the meetings.

The schedule of upcoming meetings is listed in every issue of the Newscast. Look for the agenda in the mail 2 to 3 weeks prior to the meeting date. The Newscast is always sent with the agenda.

!!!!!!!REMINDER!!!!!!!

If you haven't completed and returned the Constituent Satisfaction Survey for the Office of the Rural Health Policy Council, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is necessary to the continuation and improvement of our services.

Interdepartmental Rural Health Coordinating Committee - Upcoming Public Meetings

8/15 - 12:30 - 3:30 pm
Quincy Library Meeting Room
445 Jackson Street, Quincy

October - Porterville (date/time TBA)

Rural Health Policy Council Remainder of 1997 Schedule of Public Meetings

Sept 19 Indio - 9:30am-11:30am
 Don Kenny Education Center
 47-336 Oasis St., Rm 17A/B
 In conjunction with the Sept 18 meeting of the Calif. State Rural Health Assn.

Nov 20 Burlingame - 10:00am-Noon
 Hyatt Regency - S.F. Airport
 1333 Bayshore Highway
 Held in conjunction with the California State Association of Counties annual meeting.

Order the Rural Health Clinic Guidebook

As noted in the May edition of the Newscast, the guidebook has been sent gratis to approximately 180 Rural Health Clinics in California. The cost is \$35 for rural health providers and \$150 for other interested parties. To order a copy, call 1-800-494-2001.

The Jobs Available Program continues to add and fill positions:

- 155 open jobs - 61 clinic, 64 hospital, 22 public health, 3 LTC, 5 mental health
- 33 filled jobs
- covers forty counties

If you are not currently participating in the program and would like to, please contact Kathleen Maestas at 1-800-237-4492.

Jobs Available

Rural Health Newscast

Published periodically by the

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